

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification and claims have been amended to make it clear that the coupling device comprises coupling ball 6 and ball socket 8 comprised of moulded article 9. As amended, the claims are believed to be in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112.

The rejection of claims 4 and 6 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by Colbert et al, cited, is respectfully traversed. The claims are respectfully submitted neither to be anticipated by the cited patent, nor to be obvious therefrom.

While Colbert et al disclose a ball socket body of cast steel and while a crust is formed during casting steel, there is no hint in the Colbert et al patent that a casting crust remains on the interior of their ball socket. In fact, such a crust is normally removed from the contacting surfaces of interengaging parts, such as a ball-and-socket joint, because the resulting roughness produces unwanted friction. It is, therefore, surprising that the crust on the interior of the socket enhances the carrying capacity of the coupling device. It transfers the support and trailing loads to the moulded ball socket without overloading the coupling device (see paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 of the specification). Thus, the provision of the crust on the interior of the socket

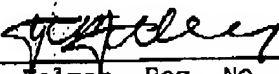
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contradicts the understanding of a person of ordinary skill in the art, rather than being obvious. In view of the above, claim 4 is respectfully submitted clearly to be patentable. Claims 5 and 6 depend thereon and are believed to be allowable therewith.

A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 4-6 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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